

The Lime Twig John Hawkes

with introduction by Leslie Fiedler

The Lime Twig is John Hawkes' fourth novel but the first to be published in England

It opens in the time of the blitz in London, where, among the nightly horror, a feeling of community is established. There is a race gang that plans to make a grand haul by running a ringer in a famous horse race; a handsome and sexy young working man who fronts as the horse's owner; a redheaded nymph who keeps him in line until the dirty work is done, and a tiny gunman named Sparrow, whose efficiency is maintained by narcotics

Yet, The Lime Twig is not a book that can be characterised sufficiently by a summary of the plot and certainly not by any brief comment on the quality of writing. Leslie Fiedler, in his introduction, says, 'It reminds us of Brighton Rock recalled in a delirium or by a drowning man'

Gothic in its horror, existentialist in its fatalism, the author's vision of the human condition is the vision of a nightmare, and to find parallels for his methods and ideas one must turn to Kafka, Celine, Beckett, Ionesco, Genet. But they are only parallels. John Hawkes is an American original

Jacket Desmond Jeffery



About the Author

Webster Schott reviewing John Hawkes in The Nation writes: 'I shall leave the refinements of John Hawkes' sources to those who will study him after he is 'discovered'. The discovery is inevitable but not necessarily near. In the meantime it will be impossible, I suppose, to convince any but those who have read his novels that in Providence, Rhode Island, teaching English at Brown University, is a quiet American of thirty-six who is writing novels of force and imagination at a pitch with the most terrifying and relevant modern drama and fiction reaching our shores from Europe. Hawkes is a prophet in his own country'

the Cannibal

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John Hawkes



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Anybody with an ambition to write the strangest novel of the year will have to beat John Hawkes' first novel. It has the troubling power of an undiscarded nightmare. Time Magazine

The Cannibal John Hawkes

The Cannibal, a precisely balanced novel, envisions a baroque postwar Germany populated by human wreckage and ruled by a solitary American soldier who races through the night on a motorcycle. Black Germany rises again from the ashes of two wars, and its phoenix is a monstrous reincarnation of Adolf Hitler. Yet, it is more than this; for The Cannibal is about the universal triumph of evil, sex rendered impotent, and a world 'as shrivelled in structure and decomposed as an oxen's tongue black with ants'

There is a cold, oracular air about the book which implies hidden wisdom and unrevealed confidences-side effects of Hawkes' deliberate timelessness. His characters taste sex but do not feel it. They are plagued by disturbing but vaguely meaningful memories. They do not so much move as wander through his disfigured territory. Violence and death follow overhead like birds of prey

A major novel, at every level

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